

which was to grandfather existing employees into the new system and to ensure that no federal workers would be harmed by changes in the retirement formula.

In a letter dated February 19, 1987 to then OPM Director Constance Horner, the Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Honorable William D. Ford, objected to this anomalous and unfair result. He wrote:

As in many other instances involving benefits, Congress chose to protect or to "grandfather" past service—to apply the new benefit formula only to future service rather than previously performed service under the older, more generous formula. This policy is often adopted to avoid penalizing individuals through the retroactive application of changes not anticipated by them. (As a measure of fairness, the policy of prospectivity is often applied to benefit improvements as well).

Notwithstanding Chairman Ford's efforts to clarify congressional intent, this inequity has continued for 14 years. OPM has publicly acknowledged that there is a problem with COBRA. Director Lachance stated publicly in a letter to Chairman Fred Thompson of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs: "I agree that an end-of-career change to a part time work schedule can have an unanticipated adverse effect on the amount of the retirement benefit." She also acknowledges in that same letter that a comparable bill in the other body, S. 772 introduced by Senator ROBB, "would eliminate the potential for anomalous computations by providing that the full time salary would be applicable to all service regardless of when it was performed while the proration of service credit would apply only to service after April 6, 1986 [the date of enactment]."

This is precisely what the bill we are offering today does. It allows the retirees affected by this inequity to have their full-time equivalent salary for their high three years to apply to their entire careers, not just the portion after 1986. My bill differs from S. 772 in that it places the burden on affected retirees to request a recalculation of benefits. This is coupled with a requirement that OPM conduct a good faith effort to notify annuitants of their right to obtain a recalculation. To all future retirees, benefits will be calculated in accordance with the new formula.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of great consequence to many Americans who devoted their most productive years to public service. Some of my constituents have annuities that are thousands of dollars less than they would be under my bill. As I indicated, a disproportionate share of these retirees appears to be women, who left the federal service to care for others.

It is particularly appropriate that we address this issue now, as changing work-force needs and lifestyles make part-time service more popular, both from the standpoint of the worker and the employee. Many of the anticipated work-force shortages that are anticipated in the federal civil service can and should be met with part-time workers. I am concerned that they will not be so long as the anomalous and unfair provisions of P.L. 99-272 are allowed to stand. I urge my colleague to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH F. SMITH

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would rename a United States Post Office in Philadelphia, PA, to honor the late U.S. Congressman, Joseph F. Smith.

Joe Smith started his career of service to this Nation as a sergeant in the United States Army, receiving a Purple Heart for his actions during World War II. From 1970–1981, he served in the Pennsylvania State Senate. As you are aware, Joe was elected to the Ninety-seventh Congress in 1981 and served until 1983. He worked at the forefront of the Democratic Party as the Democratic city chairman in Philadelphia from 1983–1986. Joe also served as the 31st ward leader for more than 3 decades. He remained devoted to the people of his community until May 1999, when he passed away.

Throughout his career, the people of Philadelphia looked to him for leadership, and he immersed himself in understanding their needs. Joe understood that public service is most effective when one understands and closely reflects the convictions and beliefs of one's constituents. No matter what body he was serving in, his heart was always with the people who resided in the communities of Kensington, Port Richmond, and Fishtown. After his retirement, Joe could still be found sharing wisdom and insight from his stoop to those who sought advice and kinship.

Joe Smith was an outstanding legislator, a great human being, and a distinguished American. We ask that you join us in honoring his legacy in the community that he so diligently served throughout his life. To learn more about Joe Smith, or to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Karen Bloom with Congressman BORSKI, at 5–8251.

HONORING LONG BEACH'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding middle schools in my district, Charles Evans Hughes Middle School and Will Rogers Middle School of Long Beach. Both have been recognized by the California Department of Education as California Blue Ribbon Schools, for their demonstrated excellence in student achievement, teacher quality, and community and family involvement. These schools are now eligible to be named as National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

Both Hughes and Rogers Middle Schools have overcome a number of challenges. Both are urban schools with a significant number of low-income and limited English proficient students. Even with these challenges, both schools have demonstrated remarkable progress. Ten years ago, Rogers had some of the lowest test scores in the Long Beach Unified School District. Today, it is consistently among the top five middle schools in the dis-

trict. At Hughes, 10 percent of the student body earns straight A's, and 75 percent have GPA's of 2.0 or above.

At both schools, teachers undergo regular professional training and both host a number of events designed to bring the community and the students together.

These two schools demonstrate all that is right with public education. They show the remarkable successes that happen when teachers, parents and students are committed to a superior standard of education. I congratulate the faculty, teachers, parents and students of Hughes and Rogers Middle Schools on this remarkable achievement, and wish them well in their continued pursuit of educational excellence.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHAPLIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our military community. After two years of exemplary service as the Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School, Admiral Robert C. Chaplin's new assignment is in Yokosuka, Japan, where he will become the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ).

As a former graduate of the NPS, Admiral Chaplin has offered a unique and insightful perspective as the Superintendent of his alma mater by ensuring that we have well-prepared and well-educated Navy officers to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Admiral Chaplin has tirelessly promoted NPS graduates as an existing and available resource for the Navy. He has pushed to create these stronger ties by establishing meetings between the school deans and Navy commanders, as well as between his students and the fleets. This "technical to tactical" bridge, as Admiral Chaplin has titled it, has proven highly successful, and will benefit the Navy long after his departure.

The imprint that this extraordinary leader has left on academics at the NPS is equally commendable. Not only has Admiral Chaplin established two new programs—the Information System Operations and System Engineering Programs—but also he has governed the creation of three additional new curricula scheduled for implementation in September. Pushing the school to be on the cutting edge of distance learning, NPS recently graduated over a dozen students who have never been on the NPS campus. Admiral Chaplin has ably used technology and the Internet to ensure that Navy officers around the world are not denied a postgraduate degree simply by geography. Many of his accomplishments at NPS have been driven from his desire to foster stronger partnerships with many of the region's universities and the nation's top technology schools, as well as bringing together the high tech companies in the Silicon Valley with students at the school.

As a valued member of the greater Monterey Peninsula Community, Admiral Chaplin will be missed by many. Our regret is tempered by recognition of the opportunity that lies before him. Admiral Chaplin is well suited